

THE SILENT WORLD.

Vol. II.

WASHINGTON, MARCH 15, 1872.

No. 6.

FOR THE SILENT WORLD.

EVENTIDE.

UPON Pacific's waving breast
Slow sinks the wanderer to his rest;
A thousand clouds witness his flight,
And hymn his decline for the night.
'Mid purple tints another day
The long arrear of years doth pay,
And Hesperus, with feeble light,
Now, ineffectual, rules the night.

Ah, what a solemn memento,
The soul to tell the body's fate—
The birth, the rise, the fall below—
The sinking like the sun, tho' late!
And sadly but one tale like this
The record gives of woe or bliss;
The scene vibrates a mournful tone,
Of joys that soon to sadness run;
And pale memory's moon with tears
Wanes with our intermitting years.
Nor cloud of beauty swims the skies,
To paint the name of him that dies,
And morning suns, like omens, yet
Demark our fate as still they set!

How happy he that toil'd for God,
And pray'd where'er his footsteps trod:
To him *that* vital life is given,
Which sets on earth to rise in heav'n.

Oh! Thou, who givest light and life
And bliss to oft-forgotten man,
A leading gem in us set rife,
To guide, like conscience, o'er our land;
And may that guiding conscience still
Take captive erring human will,
Illume the way, our jewel bright,
And make us subject to Thy will!

—J. J. FLOURNOY.

REMINISCENCES OF THE WAR.

III.

BRENTWOOD is a charming place, situated on a hill one and a half miles northeast of the city, and but a few score rods from the Deaf-Mute Institution. It is a pleasant retreat, free from the bustle and dust of the city. On the hill is a stuccoed house, with a lawn dotted with large shady trees, and in the background, at a distance from the house, is a slightly undulating woodland. Down the hill in front spreads an ample, verdant field. There, upon the slope of the hill, a regiment was encamped, against the will of the family, who objected to its doing so for fear that violence might be committed upon the premises. The surroundings of the soldiers' encampment presented so strong an inducement for rambling that they were constantly to be seen loafing around, much to the annoyance of the family. At last a sentry had to be placed about the premises.

One day there was a commotion among the soldiers—some of them had set fire to one of the out-buildings, and they were threatening to do violence to the house. The lady, who inherited the property from her ancestors, was alone in the house with her invalid mother and two children, her husband being at that time absent. The officers of the Deaf and Dumb Institution hastened to the scene, their attention being attracted by the immense volume of smoke. The principal took a stand near the house, and in front of the soldiers, and called upon

them to pause in their work of destruction, saying in a commanding voice, "Listen to me a moment;" then he took the trembling lady's hand, and made a short speech to the soldiers, appealing to their patriotism, their generosity, and above all, to their gallantry. They were touched, and having recovered from their frenzy, gave the gallant gentleman a rousing cheer, when he stated that he himself was from the "land of steady habits," and could assure them of the loyalty of the lady, suspicions of whose patriotism had led to the deed. They then went to work trying to check the progress of the fire, and to save all they could from the burning barn. The lady, to show them that she was their friend, afterward gave them hot coffee and refreshments.

One afternoon we went to Meridian Hill, about two miles northwest of the Institution, to witness the presentation of a flag to the New York Seventh Regiment. President Lincoln and his family and the high officials of the nation were on the ground, and the people of the city moved thitherward in an immense concourse. It was a grand occasion. President Lincoln was of course the "observed of all observers;" upon his shoulders rested a grave responsibility in the future destiny of the nation, and upon his features was imprinted the deep mark of care and anxiety. With the customary speech the flag was given to the regiment, amid the plaudits of the on-looking multitude. As soon as the presentation was accomplished there succeeded great bustle and excitement where all before had been order and quiet. An order had just arrived for the regiment to prepare to march to the front. The soldiers were wondering where they were to go. We bade them good-by, with a silent prayer that they might make a noble record, upholding the flag which had just been entrusted to them.

Once, as two gentlemen connected with the Institution were walking toward the city of an afternoon, they met a thousand rebel prisoners just brought in from the battle-field of Chancellorsville, under guard of Federal troops. They were waiting for a train to take them to the North. The gentlemen commented in the sign-language upon the looks of the prisoners; and, while they were thus talking, a rebel, who stood at a distance, mimicked them by flitting his fingers and swinging his arms in the air. The guard, who noticed this, looked about to find out whom the rebel was talking to in this mysterious way, evidently suspecting that there was a secret communication going on between him and his friends. The gentlemen thought it prudent to beat a retreat before they got into difficulties, and perhaps into *durance vile*.

MR. ROBERTS, a Philadelphia subscriber, in writing to us to change his address for the third or fourth time in the past six months, says that since his marriage in 1848 he has moved thirty-five times. It might be interesting to know how much crockery he has had smashed, how many glasses cracked, and how many chairs reduced to kindling wood.

WE learn from a New Haven (Conn.) paper that, a month or two back, a surprise party was given to Mrs. Julia Griswold, a deaf and dumb lady of the town of Branford, Conn. The presents consisted in part of such substantials as a ton of coal, and tea, coffee, sugar, &c. A purse of \$35 was also presented. At such parties as these persons find who their real friends are.

THE SILENT WORLD.

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WASHINGTON, MARCH 15, 1872.

WE are always grateful to those who take the trouble to send us any items they may happen to come across which they think will be of interest to the readers of our paper. No matter whether we use them or not, it is encouraging to see that there are some who appreciate our labor, and strive to aid us as they can. To the many who have so favored us we return thanks, and urge upon one and all the importance of their co-operation in this simple way. Each one can help to make THE SILENT WORLD what it is striving to be—an instructive and entertaining paper.

WE wish it understood that we welcome communications from any source whatever, and shall always publish such as we think will interest our readers. While we cannot sympathize with that clannish feeling which leads some to think that a paper for the deaf and dumb should contain nothing that does not relate to them, or that is not written by them, or that does not abound in the peculiar blunders which characterize the ignorant among them, we shall give the preference to articles from the pens of deaf-mutes and for deaf-mutes, when they are balanced by others of equal merit.

REVIEWS OF REPORTS.

THIS week we deal with the handsomest reports in our collection. We speak typographically. If we judge them by that ancient but now little-regarded maxim, "handsome is that handsome does," we must still look upon them as among the best we possess.

"My Maryland" opens to our view smooth, glossy pages of fine tinted paper and clear-cut letter-press that do credit to the printer, and are a pleasure to those who handle these pamphlets. They are prefaced by a lithograph of the Institution as it will appear when it is finished. The lithograph is a good one, we suppose; but as we are no judge of this style of pictorial art, we hope we shall not be held responsible for remarking that we cannot see why, in these pictures, trees should be red, grass black, and skies green. If it is undertaken to color a picture, why not color it after nature? The building itself has a monastic look, arising from the shape of its towers, and the cross which surmounts the central one. The structure consists of the usual main building and two side-wings, with any quantity of wings in the rear. Turning to the body of the report, we find that the Board of Visitors ask the legislature to appropriate \$100,000 to complete this building and the grounds. The two sections now under roof are expected to be ready for the reception of the scholars at the commencement of school in the fall. One of the reasons the Board gives in urging the speedy completing the buildings is, that "It is important that the teachers, who are now quartered outside, should be accommodated in the Institution." Mr. Talbot, of Iowa, is of the opposite opinion.

This Institution has about ninety pupils in attendance, and is rapidly growing. Several applications have had to be

refused, for want of room. The trade of shoemaking is now being taught under a competent master, and other trades will be introduced as soon as the new building is occupied. A reading-room for the pupils has been established, and the sum of \$20 is to be expended yearly for illustrated papers, and all the publishers in the State have been invited to place a copy of their papers on file. A valuable library of about two thousand volumes has also been purchased for the use of the young people.

We are especially pleased to note these last two facts, for we believe that if deaf-mutes who are taught by the sign-method are ever to overcome their peculiar disadvantages and gain a good command of the English language, it will be principally through reading. A reading-room and a library for the use of the pupils are the most imperative wants of every institution; and every encouragement should be held out and every endeavor exercised to cultivate in the pupils a taste for books. In their isolated state, a love of reading is one of the choicest consolations, and one of the purest safeguards which the deaf can possess.

The Board of Visitors pay a high tribute to the energy and efficiency of Mr. Ely, the principal, and we feel sure it is deserved.

"Let there be Light," says the Ohio Institution on its seal, and it must be admitted that Mr. Fay throws a great deal of light upon many and various subjects connected with the deaf and dumb. His tables give us comprehensive views of the average age pupils enter and leave school; the average number of years they have remained under instruction at various periods in the history of the Institution; the actual ages of the pupils and the average age of each class; the distribution among the counties of the pupils and uneducated deaf-mutes; causes of deafness; age when deafness occurred, and the number of deaf-mutes of various ages in Ohio.

It is rather curious that not one pupil has remained at school the full term allowed by law since 1866, and but a small percentage have ever remained their full length of time. From this Mr. Fay shows the plain inference, that there is little disposition among the pupils to linger at school, but, on the contrary, the disposition is to enter upon the active duties and business of life as soon as possible. We believe this is always the inclination of the young, and the question, therefore, is how to keep the pupils under instruction till they are well fitted for the cares and concerns of the outer world.

Mr. Fay refers with pride to the creditable standing the graduates of his high class took last fall in the examinations for admission to the Freshman class of the National Deaf-Mute College as an evidence of the efficiency of the Institution, and questions whether it is not desirable to divide the school into grades or departments in order to procure still greater efficiency, and furnish more definite indication of the real standing of a pupil, and do away with the uncertainty existing in the public mind in regard to the ability of the Institution to educate. He says precision, justice, and economy, as well as usage, indicate the wisdom of such classification. He also refers to the system pursued in teaching the trades as being very satisfactory. The school is divided into three divisions and the day into three sessions. One of these divisions of the school is in the shops and at household duties, while the other two are in the class-room. At the end of each session, the division in the shop gives place to one of the others, and itself goes to the school-room. This gives to all something less than five hours of schooling each day, and about two and a half hours at the trades and household work.

The report is well printed, although it is not free from typographical errors. The plates used in it are all the product of the skill of a deaf-mute engraver of Cincinnati, Ohio—

John Barrick, a graduate of the Institution. Although we do not particularly admire the anatomy of the hands in the alphabet plates, we think the engraving of the Institution quite creditable, and the monogram on the cover is a beautiful piece of work. But the lettering around the picture of the Institution in the monogram is quite superfluous; he that runs may read without it. To our eyes, (forgive the conceit,) that great O is emblematic of the manner in which the fostering arms of the State have been stretched around the noble Institution, so snugly ensconced in the great I, which, reaching to the furthest bounds of the O, shows how the school is binding the State together. Yea, verily, are the D. & D. so interwoven with the commonwealth of O. that ye cannot separate them without doing permanent injury to the symmetry of all.

BAYARD TAYLOR approves of teaching articulation to the deaf and dumb, but thinks their voices, at best, are rather sepulchral.

AN Irish doctor advertises that persons afflicted with deafness may hear of him in a house on Diffey street, where also blind persons may see him daily from 3 till 10 o'clock.

AMONG the graduates of schools for deaf-mutes, the number of those who fail to support themselves is smaller in proportion than among the graduates of other educational institutions.

GOVERNOR PERHAM, of Maine, in his message to the legislature, urges the claims of the deaf and dumb of the State upon the attention of that body, eulogizes highly the instruction and discipline of the American Asylum, and thinks it is not probable that Maine can, in any other way, provide for the education of this class so cheaply and well as by continuing to send them to Hartford, Connecticut.

THE MANHATTAN DEAF-MUTE LITERARY ASSOCIATION meets every Thursday evening, in the Sunday-school room of St. Ann's Church, New York. It has now in progress a course of lectures. Mr. Johnson, of the Institution for Deaf-Mutes, was expected February 1, but was too unwell to come. Dr. Gallaudet took his place, and gave a sort of running commentary on matters of general interest. February 15, Mr. Syle lectured on Sir Walter Scott. It is hoped that these lectures will be generally attended by the deaf-mutes of New York and vicinity.

"DEAF DAN," as Daniel Collins, of Winchendon, Massachusetts, was generally called, was killed while walking on the railroad on the 20th of last month. He was something of a character, and it is related of him that some twenty-five years ago he fell through a railroad bridge near the place where he was killed to the rocks below, a distance of about twenty-five feet. He was discovered an hour or two afterward, with a fracture of the skull, and at least one or two tablespoonsful of brains scattered around. It was thought he could not live, as he was insensible till the next day, having convulsions every half-hour; but the doctors performed the operation of trepanning, and he recovered his wits and immediately commenced berating the surgeons, thinking, as he saw them with their instruments, that they were the cause of the injury. It was found that he was totally deaf, and it was extremely difficult to communicate to him the real state of the case, as at that time he was unable to read or write. He made a favorable recovery, but with the total loss of his hearing. Subsequently, through the efforts of the late Hon. Elisha Murdock, he was taught to read and write, and he thus acquired great facility in communicating and receiving information. Some years since he had his gravestone prepared and set up in Fitchburg, with his name carved upon it, and a place left to record the day of his death.

[CORRESPONDENCE.]

TRIGAMY.

MR. EDITOR: Looking over an old number of *The Atlantic Monthly*, (January, 1859,) I note that the "Professor at the Breakfast Table" quotes a pamphlet, "Go to the Bible: A Dissertation, etc., etc. By J. J. Flournoy, Athens, Georgia, 1858." "Mr. Flournoy," observes the Professor, "has gone to the Bible, and has come back from the Bible, bringing a remedy for existing social evils. * * * It is what he calls *trigamy*."

Now, Mr. Editor, can you or any of your readers tell me whether this J. J. Flournoy, who found in the Bible the doctrine of trigamy, is the same with the J. J. Flournoy, semi-mute, well known about that time for his zealous advocacy of a deaf-mute commonwealth? For which last, see the old files of *The Annals*.

I am rather curious to know in what part of the Bible J. J. F. found his doctrine of *trigamy*, (literally, having three wives.)

J. R. B.

HOWARD GLYNDON'S POSITION.

89 CLINTON PLACE, N. Y., March 6, 1872.

To the Editor of *The Silent World*:

MY DEAR SIR: I am surprised that you should have said in a recent number of your admirable journal that you cannot agree with me as to the motives which I have attributed to Rev. Mr. Gallaudet in my papers on Articulation in *The New York Evening Mail*. I have assigned to him none but those of the purest philanthropy. Whatever I may think of the course pursued by American instructors of the deaf and dumb in regard to Articulation during the last ten or fifteen years, I acknowledge unreservedly that Mr. Gallaudet could not have acted otherwise than he did at the time that the sign-theory was introduced into this country as the one and exclusive system of deaf-mute instruction. The blame at that time was all on the side of the teachers of Articulation in Europe, so far as I can see. I owe it to those who well deserve it to say that the course of Mr. Gallaudet, and of his two sons, has ever excited my most respectful admiration. I know of no three people who have been more active in their endeavors to improve the condition of the deaf and dumb, according to their own ideas on the subject. Knowing what cause they have to love the sign-language, I cannot find it in my heart to blame them for doing so.

I think the instructors of the deaf and dumb in this country have, without exception, been animated by a spirit of pure philanthropy. I assign to them none but good motives. At the same time, I feel bound to say I think that they have been of late too slow in receiving "a new Gospel."

You say I have used "strong language" in my Articulation articles. I stand to-day a living exemplification of the benefits of the Articulation system. One year ago I could not speak so as to be always understood even by those who knew me best; to strangers my articulation was unintelligible. For years I was to all intents and purposes a deaf-mute; to-day it is the universal testimony of those who know me that my voice is as distinct and natural as that of a hearing person. I owe this great improvement to the training I have received during the past year at the Clarke Institution. Therefore, can any one blame me that I should feel and speak strongly on the subject? Is it not my duty, for the sake of my kindred in affliction, to make known the results of my experience and of my observations? My articles about the Clarke Institution have been written without consulting any one on the subject. I felt a delicacy about letting anybody connected with the school know what I was doing until it was done.

I would like my position to be understood by all interested, and for this purpose, I shall be glad if you will kindly insert this letter in *THE SILENT WORLD*.

Your cordial well-wisher,

LAURA C. REDDEN, ("Howard Glyndon.")

P. S.—I ought to say that I became deaf between ten and eleven years of age; that my deafness always has been total, and that I began to lose speech from that date. I recognize and fully appreciate the liberal tone which *THE SILENT WORLD* has adopted in discussing the matters upon which I have briefly touched.

THE TWO THEORIES.

In the days of Republican Rome there flourished two noble prætorians who attracted a large share of public attention; one as an orator in the Senate and the other as a pantomimist on the Stage. Each in his sphere was possessed of an almost boundless power over an audience; each tried to outdo the other; and it was a theme for frequent, heated discussion whether Cicero could express a sentiment the more eloquently by the power of the voice, or Roscius by mute gesticulation. It is on record that Cicero's friends, at a social gathering, had an animated debate as to whether gesticulation is an essential qualification of a good orator; and Roscius wrote a treatise comparing oratory and pantomime. The verdict of modern society and civilization is, that "a good orator must be Cicero and Roscius in one man."

While it is far from our thought to suppose that the rivalry between these two gifted men and their dispute is the commencement of the contest between Signs and Articulation, we think those who respect a quarrel for its antiquity may have their opinion of the dispute between the advocates of the two methods of teaching the deaf and dumb favorably affected by considering it in this light, and to them we leave it. But there is an instructive analogy to be drawn, which it is our purpose to present.

There are two conflicting theories—a Cicero and a Roscius—in regard to teaching the deaf and dumb. Two systems are brought before us, each laying claim to the greatest efficiency, and each upheld stoutly and well by a formidable array of able advocates and stubborn facts. Which shall we choose? Shall it be Cicero, or shall it be Roscius?

As every theory has to be tried by a practical application of its principles, we must give these two methods the benefits of a fair trial before we pass judgment upon their merits or demerits. Both of these systems have been taught in Germany and France for many years; but we ask whether they have been fairly tried in America? As it is, the Sign method has been much the longer in use, and we can form an opinion of the results, but not in comparison with the Articulation theory. It is but a short time that Articulation has been introduced into this country, and we must wait yet some years and see how well prepared it sends its pupils out into the world to work out their destiny. There are several schools in the country especially devoted to Articulation and Lip-reading, and they are the only places where the system really has a fair field. Every endeavor is being made to improve the system and make it successful. A. Graham Bell's novel method is exciting universal interest, and bids fair to go a long way toward relieving the deaf and dumb of a great part of their misfortune.

On the other hand, what has been done to better the Sign-language?—Roscius, where art thou? Have not its advocates laid themselves open to the charge that "they have clung to old traditions as if the world were never to move again;" that "they have resolutely refused to avail themselves of the suggestions that were lying broadcast around them;" that "they

have pursued an undeviating routine into which no new ideas were permitted to creep?" What has become of the system of "Initial Signs" which Mr. I. L. Peet, of the New York Institution, exemplified in so lucid a manner at the conference of principals held at Washington, years ago? Was it ever tried in any of the Institutions after it was adopted by the unanimous vote of the conference? We cannot but believe that it would prove of great help to the deaf and dumb in acquiring a mastery of written language.

We wish all means to be tried to improve both systems of instruction, and hope that a spirit of earnest search after the truth will pervade all who are engaged in the cause.

Doubtless, we may presume that Cicero as well as Roscius wished in his heart that he possessed the other's talents in addition to his own, and both talents combined in one man would have made a perfect orator. May not experience yet pronounce the *fiat* that, in deaf-mute education, we can only obtain a perfect method by combining the two rival systems of the time in one.

GET ten subscribers for *THE SILENT WORLD*, and we will give you a copy of Webster's National Pictorial Dictionary, worth \$5.

MR. KESLING, of Wytheville, Va., a deaf-mute and a worthy man, had his shoulder-blade broken in a saw-mill recently by a falling plank.

J. M. ALLEN, Esq., at one time steward of the American Asylum at Hartford, is now president of the "Hartford Steam Boiler Inspection and Insurance Company." We recall (not with rancor) a time in our school days when Mr. Allen, for some infraction of discipline, put us in *durance vile* for a few hours, and how our rebellious heart throbbed with resentment thereat. We came to know the man better in after years, and to respect and love him well; and there are many former pupils of the Asylum who will unite with us in wishing him still greater success in life. The company of which he is president issue a small paper devoted to their special branch of business, and bearing the unique name of *The Locomotive*. We acknowledge the receipt of a copy.

COLLEGE RECORD.

A WORD ABOUT LECTURES.

My attention was called to the paragraph in the last number of *The Record* in which the scarcity of lectures this season was attributed to the difficulty encountered in rendering them in signs. For one, I do not like to have the subject so quietly disposed of, and I believe that this is the sentiment of the whole College.

Last year a course of six lectures was promised us, of which only four were given; and although attendance was not compulsory, hardly a single student failed to be present, and the lecturers could not complain of inattention on our part.

Such exercises, we are sure, *can* be made a highly profitable feature in the College course. They are interesting and attractive, for they vary the usual routine of study and recitation, lead the mind away from the dull pages of text-books, and present knowledge in a more pleasing form. We are aware that certain professors experience difficulty in expressing their ideas in the silent language of the hand; but this is not the case with the majority, and the difficulty can be removed by practice.

Therefore, I say, by all means let us have lectures. Not "few and far between," but frequently, and upon an agreeable variety of subjects. That the students appreciate them, is shown by their having organized a literary society among themselves.

PLENTY of snow and long glazier's bills last week.

RACING through the snow and mud after hats is lively. Those who don't relish the exercise stuff their plugs in their coat-tail pockets.

THE President received an invitation through the State Department to attend the official reception of the Japanese, and he was there.

PRESIDENT GALLAUDET went on a flying visit to Columbus, Ohio, on the 8th. The Institution there sent greeting to the College.

WE have had a snow-blockade! The snow fell so deep on the 2d that the H-street cars were compelled to stop running for two days.

THAT was a nice little hop that was gotten up impromptu by Mrs. Gallaudet the other evening, only we couldn't keep step to the music.

MR. J. E. TOWNSEND, a graduate and former teacher in the Ohio Institution, who has been in the city for some time, left town this week.

JAMES, '75, has left College. He proposes to go into the stock raising business in the wilds of Montana. We wish him success in his enterprise.

THE boys, whose handwriting resembles chicken tracks in a wet door-yard, are anxiously asking when the lessons in penmanship and book-keeping are coming off.

THE exercises of the Literary Society commence at half-past seven every other Friday evening. Visitors will please bear this in mind if they wish to see the debates or the best part of the exercises.

DR. PALMER, of Belleville, Ontario, favored us with a call this week, while on his way to Canada from North Carolina, where he has been visiting. He thinks Canada agrees with him as he has gained fifteen pounds since he went there.

THE boys that belong over at the President's and Professor Chickering's have considered the students good game during the recent snow spell, and from ambush have popped them beneath the fifth rib and "where their pants are tight."

THE deaf-mutes of the city have projected a soiree on a grand scale, and are out with notices in all the daily papers. They intend to organize a club for social intercourse, to be known as the "Washington Silent Club." All success, friends.

THE Reading-room is the place where the students "most do congregate" these cold days; fires are consequently on the increase, and the officers are at a loss what to do with their rapidly-increasing pile. Why not treat all around—to chewing gum?

MR. MYERS, '75, has returned. His father died on the night of the 27th of February of an attack of paralysis. His is a sore affliction to be called upon to endure at any time, but especially is it trying in his case, as it entails other troubles, and renders his stay in College very doubtful.

WE recently peeped into the Billiard-room, and what a sight met our gaze! The table is to all intents and purposes a total wreck, bare of cloth, and as smooth as a billiard-ball. The balls "have gone where the woodbine twineth," and the cues have been cut up for canes by itinerant students, and we have come to the conclusion that billiard playing is about played out here. O, for some enthusiastic Greene to revive that innocent game!

AT a meeting of the Kendall B. B. C., held on the 9th, the following officers were elected to serve for the ensuing term: President, E. S. Chapin; Vice-President, Wm. M. Allman; Secretary, D. Carroll; Treasurer, S. F. Wheeler. The report of the treasurer showed the state of the finances to be gratifying. Several new members were elected, and, after a committee was appointed to confer with President Gallaudet respecting the grounds to be used for the coming season, the meeting adjourned.

OUR R. L. reports the following conversation as taking place among the members of '72:

Be-et.—"Flowers! flowers! flowers!"

Jo-es.—"It means that——"

Re-d.—"You are a fool."

Hi-ba-d.—"But——"

Sc-et.—"The nigger is——"

Hi-l.—"The spirit of the thing."

Dr-p-r.—"You don't argue worth a cent. It's my opinion——"

McG-eg-r.—"It's gone where the woodbine twineth! Bet I'm right."

Here our R. L. fell into a peaceful doze.

It is seldom that a deaf-mute is convicted of crime.

THE annual income of the American Asylum at Hartford, Connecticut, from its invested fund, is over \$20,000.

CHARLES DICKENS once presented the blind of the Minnesota Institution with a copy of "Old Curiosity Shop" printed in raised letters.

INSTITUTION NEWS.

ARKANSAS.

A LINE from Mr. Caruthers announces fifty-seven pupils in attendance. A building similar to the first one erected, and one hundred and forty feet from it, is nearly ready for occupation. It is designed to be a wing, the central space being reserved for the future centre building. Miss Jennie Upson, of Tallmadge, Ohio, has been added to the teaching corps. Also a sweet child to the domestic department, under the especial charge of Mr. and Mrs. Atwood. They call her Lois.—*Chronicle*.

NEW YORK.

OUR principal (I. L. Peet) has introduced a new feature which somewhat relieves the monotony of school-life, and may rouse teachers and pupils to greater efforts. He holds an examination in the chapel in presence of the whole school, teachers and pupils, at which four or five of the classes in rotation, beginning with the youngest, are called up to show off their attainments.

R. A. Goodell, formerly of the Michigan Institution, and then of the Preparatory Class in Washington, has been in our supplemental class since last fall. He is reported to be going at a "two-forty" rate up the steep ascent of learning, and nearly as fast behind our principal's fine horse on the avenue.

Mr. Cook, of the High Class, has successfully executed a flank movement from the Riverside House to the Mansion House, where he is more conveniently near the Institution, and has the society of Messrs. Peet, Reaves, Syle, and the ladies.

Mr. Reaves and his wife have been summoned to Canada by a telegraphic message that Mr. R.'s mother was dying.

WE have an enthusiast in photography here, a deaf-mute youth of 18. He takes very good pictures cheaper than you can get them in the city. He has executed in splendid style a view of our fine range of shops, with all the boys standing before them. A very desirable memento for the boys.

MR. H. W. Syle favored our Fanwood Literary Association about two weeks since with a very interesting lecture on the life of the great novelist, Sir Walter Scott, which reminds me of a little poem written many years ago by the deaf and dumb poet, James Nack, beginning—

"God bless thee, Walter Scott,
For thou hast blest mankind,
And thrown upon their lot
The brightness of thy mind;
And filled the soul with pleasures
No other could impart;
And given the mind new treasures,
And purified the heart."

J. R. B.

AMERICAN ASYLUM.

GOV. JEWELL paid the Institution a visit recently in his official capacity, and seemed much pleased with the arrangement of affairs in the Institution and its work. Every thing was conducted as usual, so that he could get a good idea of our every-day life. He made a brief address to the pupils when they were assembled in the Chapel, which was warmly received. Among other things he said, while congratulating them on the advantages for acquiring an education they were then enjoying, that during his travels in Egypt he found a deaf and dumb man yoked to the plow in company with a beast of burden. Asking the reason of such treatment, he was told that as the deaf-mute could not learn and become a useful and responsible member of society, it was best to have him work that way.

The recent cold snap has had its effect on the health of the teachers and officers, four or five of them being prevented from attending to their duties for a few days. Only one of them, Mr. Williams, has been seriously sick, and he is now slowly recovering from his attack of typhoid fever, preceded by a cold.

OUR principal became a happy father last Monday, the 4th. The name given the little stranger is Jennie.

Prof. David E. Bartlett has lectured every Sunday for ten years. "It is hard at first," he says, "but after a time you get used to it, and like it." The deaf-mutes certainly like the clear, forcible, and graphic delivery of his sermons, always so full of warmth of feeling.

AMUSEMENTS are indulged in at all convenient times by the pupils; the officers agree with them that "all work and no play makes Jack a dull boy." Among the most recent may be mentioned some fine tableaux got up by the High Class girls, which were really creditable, and some sixty stereoptical pictures, out of a collection of two thousand made by Prof. Eaton, of New Haven, while travelling in Europe a few years ago. These pictures were of unusual excellence.

THE High Class has nearly used up eight Webster's Unabridged, for that is the number of the one at present on its table.

MR. E. W. Frisbee has performed the feat of standing on one leg for an hour to gain a three-months' subscription to THE SILENT WORLD, offered him by a friend on condition he did so. If any one does not believe this is much to boast of let him try to do it himself.

Dialogues have become an interesting feature in our fortnightly delivery of pieces in signs. When properly rendered and acted they never fail to "bring down the house."

On the 12th the Board of Directors are to make the Institution a visit to see what repairs are needed on it, how the school progresses, &c. W. L. B.

THE FORTNIGHT.

HOME.

MARCH came in like a lion.—Gov. Warmoth, of Louisiana, announces his intention of opposing Grant's re-election.—Garvey, one of the New York ring, has come out of his hiding-place and turned State's evidence. He appeared last week against Mayor Hall at his trial for defrauding the city of New York in connection with Tweed & Co.—The 6th was a fearfully cold day in New York. Several people were frozen to death. A driver was found on Forty-seventh street, dead in his cart, the reins grasped in his frozen hands.—The imperial Japanese embassy has arrived in Washington, and is receiving all sorts of attentions from the President, Congress, and people.—The boys of Bellaire, Ohio, had a pitched battle with those of Benwood, West Virginia, last week. The fight took place on the ice of the Ohio river, and every conceivable missile was used. One boy of 13 was killed.—An attempt was made to set fire to the Sigourney House, in Hartford, on the 3d. Forty persons were asleep in the building at the time.—Judge Cardozo, who tries Stokes for the murder of Fisk, has decided that the jury which indicted Stokes is a legally-organized body.—The Central Pacific railroad want the use of Goat island in San Francisco harbor for nothing; it is worth \$50,000 a year at least.—A bogus concern, "The Geneva Watch Company," has been fooling New Yorkers with cheap and useless watches.—A ragged little boy found \$15,000 in a Detroit depot the other day, and was rewarded by the owner with two ten-cent shin-plasters. Generous!—The New York Assembly has struck the word "white" from the military code.—The small-pox, spreading from Philadelphia, has reached Washington, and is travelling down the Shenandoah valley.—The Democratic papers go into ecstasies over the nomination of Davis and Parker by the Labor Reformers. This is not the way to make the ticket popular with those Republicans who, though they do not desire Grant's renomination, are still suspicious of anything Democratic.—A train for New York was thrown from the track near Springfield, Mass., on the 8th. Twelve persons were injured, among them Admiral De Rohan, of France, and the mail, an unusually heavy and valuable one, was destroyed.—

Jay Gould has been ousted from the presidency of the Erie railroad, and Gen. J. A. Dix elected in his place. These are hard times for rogues.—On the 10th, Leonard Marquardt and his wife, living near Dayton, Ohio, killed three of their children, and then the husband turned on the woman and served her in the same way. Insanity from spiritualism is said to be the cause of the deed.—New Hampshire has gone republican by 1,500 majority. This secures Senator Patterson's re-election.

CONGRESS.

Congress is hard at work investigating. There are four committees at work: One inquiring into District of Columbia matters, a second into the sale of arms to France, a third into the frauds of the New York custom house, and then into the affairs of the Seneca Sandstone Company. *Vive* investigation! Dawes, the acknowledged leader of the House, has been giving the members a lecture on their inattention to their duties.

FOREIGN.

THE Tichborne trial has gone against the pretended heir to the property. He has been arrested for perjury, and his bail fixed at a quarter of a million of dollars.—O'Connor, an Irishman, tried to frighten Queen Victoria into granting a pardon to the Fenians imprisoned in England, by pointing an unloaded pistol at her head, but failed in the attempt, got knocked down by her groom, and sent to prison.—The feeling about the Alabama claims is much more, rational than a month ago, but the fate of the treaty is still doubtful.—The library of William Penn was sold at auction on the 8th, in London.—Queen Victoria goes to Germany on the 26th, to spend a fortnight.—On the anniversary of the entry into Paris, the Emperor of Germany made presents of money, ranging from \$300,000 downwards, to the leading generals of the German army.—Bismarck has publicly expressed his distrust of the loyalty of the Catholic clergy.—The relations between France and Italy are not cordial. If trouble comes, it is said Italy will have Germany to back her. In this connection it is curious to note, that Von Moltke is now travelling in Italy for "the benefit of his health."—Pere Hyacinthe approves of the diffusion of the Bible.—France has just paid over to Germany two milliards of the war indemnity. Three more milliards and she is free.—A copy of the "Constitution of the French Republic of 1794," bound in human skin, was recently offered for sale in Paris.—Mazzini is dead.—Ex-President Royce, of Liberia, was drowned in the harbor of Monrovia, while attempting to swim to an English steamer. He had been imprisoned for misconduct in office and was trying to escape.—The Cubans have treated Grand Duke Alexis to a bull fight and a cock fight.

Wm. S. Teel,

TAILOR,

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Balm of Life.

This marvelous curative and universal alleviator is clear, clean, and harmless. Whether internally taken or externally applied, it does no harm. Its power is invincible, while it acts without giving pain. Its careless use will not injure any one, but its judicious use will never fail to do good, if not effect a cure.

Directions and testimonials can be had at the TEMPLE OF HEALTH, corner Ninth and H streets, Washington, D. C., where also a trial bottle can be had, for which, should it prove not to be beneficial, when used as directed, the purchase money will be refunded. Here the Balm of Life is manufactured, and here its discoverer will give professional advice as to the best methods of using it. Here, too, the invalid, poor, and orphans are supplied with the Balm of Life without money and without stint.

THE MEDICAL FACULTY—if the incentive is to restore the sick and save life—will do well to investigate and learn the facts of the cases which are advertised as having been palliated or cured by the Balm of Life.

Discoverer and Proprietor,

T. A. COOK.

THE GREAT DISCOVERY.

Letter from General Howard.

WASHINGTON, D. C., July 21, 1871.

PROF. T. A. COOK:

Dear Sir—I have for some time used the Balm of Life in my family as a wash, and have found it all you recommend. I am glad to join others in commending an article that is evidently doing so much good.

Yours truly,

O. O. HOWARD,
Brigadier General, U. S. A.

Letter of F. H. Smith, Stenographer.

WASHINGTON, NOV. 23, 1871.

PROF. T. A. COOK:

We have used "Cook's Balm of Life" in our family during the past three or four months as an anti-dyspeptic, and as a tonic for the hair, and although I had, at first, no faith whatever in it, as a medicine, the result has made me one of your converts, and you could hardly say anything in its praise for these purposes that I should not be prepared to endorse.

F. H. SMITH,
Stenographer, 520 Third street Northwest.